



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - March 3, 2003

- ***In the West***, isolated rain and snow showers dot areas from the ***Pacific Northwest to the northern Rockies***. Elsewhere in the ***West***, mild, dry weather favors fieldwork but brings the region closer to the end of a largely disappointing winter wet season that failed to provide significant relief from a multi-year drought.
- ***On the Plains***, cold weather remains entrenched across ***northern portions of the region***, including ***Montana***, where winter wheat's protective snow cover is patchy and shallow. Elsewhere on the ***Plains***, wheat is benefiting from soil moisture improvements due to recent precipitation and melting snow.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, uncharacteristically cold weather for early March—accompanied by scattered snow showers and breezy conditions—is stressing ***Midwestern*** livestock and maintaining a protective snow cover in winter wheat areas from the ***Ohio Valley to the lower Great Lakes region***.
- ***In the South***, isolated showers are confined to areas along the immediate ***Gulf Coast***. Elsewhere in the ***South***, cool conditions are slowing the growth of pastures and winter grains, but dry weather favors a limited return to fieldwork, following recent heavy precipitation.

Outlook: Early in the week, a Canadian high-pressure system will result in unseasonably cold weather across the ***Great Lakes, Northeastern, and Mid-Atlantic States***. Farther south, a frontal boundary will provide the focus for rain along the ***Gulf Coast***. Meanwhile, a strong cold front will provide another round of cold weather and a chance of snow across the ***northern Rockies, Plains, and Midwest***. In the ***Pacific Northwest***, cool, wet weather will prevail throughout the week. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for March 8-12 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Pacific Northwest, northern Rockies, Great Basin, and Great Lakes region***, while drier-than-normal weather is expected on the ***central Plains*** and across the ***nation's southern tier***. Below-normal temperatures will occur across the ***northern one-third of the U.S.***, while above-normal temperatures are forecast across the ***southern one-third of the nation***.

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